

Webmasters need to choose best WAIS

BY JEFF FRENTZEN

Implementing a document-retrieval system is highly desirable for any company that publishes on the World-Wide Web, but off-the-shelf solutions are limited.

Gopher, WAIS, and HTTP (a.k.a. Web) servers are client/server-based, but vary in terms of their data model. In Gopher, data is either a menu, document, index, or Telnet link. WAIS servers use indexes that return only documents; a WAIS index is searchable and retrieved documents do not contain links. HTTP servers contain hypertext documents that may be searchable. WAIS stand-alone databases are difficult to set up but fairly easy to maintain; for the most part, you need extra tools to integrate directly with Web servers.

WAISServer, from WAIS Inc., is a full-featured commercial product that comes with gateways to HTTP and Gopher servers, a developer's API, and a feature that lets clients access servers separated



by firewalls. It includes a wide range of full-text search functions. Try <http://www.wais.com/> for more information. The company's WAISGate product connects WAIS-Server to Web servers.

CNIDR's freeWAIS 0.3 (available at http://cnidr.org/cnidr_projects/freewais.html) is more limited in its text-search functions than WAISserver, and is difficult to set up, but it's free.

Those who want to set up a WAIS server on a shoestring budget should also look into the several additional tools and Perl scripts needed to integrate freeWAIS with the Web.

For example, the University of Dortmund offers an extension to freeWAIS, called FreeWAIS-sf, which adds more

sophisticated search capabilities to the underlying WAIS database. Check out <http://ls6-www.informatik.uni-dortmund.de/freeWAIS-sf/README-sf> for more information.

Beyond the WAIS database model, some companies offer high-end database software with hooks to the Web and other types of Internet servers.

Personal Library Software Inc.'s PLServer can share features with WAIS, and includes "natural-language" search functions, relevance ranking, and concept-based text-retrieval features (see the site at <http://www.pls.com/> for more information). Verity Inc. (<http://www.verity.com/>) includes a search engine in its commercial Web-server product.

A document by Jonathan Lavigne, "Letting Users Search Your Web Pages"—available at <http://www.rlg.stanford.edu/home/jpl/websearch.html>—explains how to make your Web pages searchable. It also provides useful pointers to other sites for further reading. ☐

WAIS SERVERS

NAME/ADDRESS	WHAT TO EXPECT
Clearinghouse for Networked Information Discovery and Retrieval http://cnidr.org/cnidr_projects/freewais.html	freeWAIS 0.3 information
Letting Users Search Your Web Pages http://www.rlg.stanford.edu/home/jpl/websearch.html	Jonathan Lavigne's overview of setting up WAIS and Web servers, with valuable pointers to other information on the Internet
Personal Library Software http://www.pls.com/	PLServer, a high-end text-retrieval search engine
Questions to ask any text-retrieval vendor gopher://thunder.thunderstone.com:70/11053	Created by Thunderstone Software, this common-sense guide is useful even though it mercilessly plugs Thunderstone's Metamorph search software.
University of Dortmund http://ls6-www.informatik.uni-dortmund.de/freeWAIS-sf/README-sf	FreeWAIS-sf 1.0 extensions to freeWAIS
Verity Inc. http://www.verity.com/	Topic Information Server for the World Wide Web, a Web server with integrated search functions
WAIS and HTTP Integration http://hoohoo.ncsa.uiuc.edu/docs/tutorials/wais.html	NCSA's excellent tutorial covers installation, implementation and security issues
WAIS Inc. http://www.wais.com/	WAIServer 2.0 and WAISGate information



WAIS Inc.

POWER TOOLS FOR ONLINE PUBLISHING

WAIS' WAISSERVER has gateways and offers full-text searches.

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Intel relents on Pentium

PROCESSORS Floating-point fiasco leaves mark

BY NEAL BOUDETTE

Intel Corp.'s move last week to implement a no-questions-asked Pentium replacement policy may have put an end to its public relations nightmare, but the lessons of the Pentium bugaboo

are likely to echo throughout the PC industry for some time.

After five weeks of intensive media coverage, Intel acquiesced to user demand and agreed to supply bug-free replacement chips to any Pentium

users who request them. The decision brought cheers from corporate buyers, some of whom have already resumed buying Pentium PCs. It also served as a warning to other hardware and software suppliers faced with similar product flaws in the future.

"I think this is a defining point in the PC industry,"

SEE INTEL, PAGE 107

THE PENTIUM BUG: WHO MADE THE GRADE?

GROUP	GRADE	COMMENT
Buyers	A ⁺	User community rallies together.
Intel	D	Failed to inform customers of the potential bug and initially screened customers seeking a replacement chip. Saved itself from an F by adopting open replacement policy.
Software developers	A ⁺	Once informed of the bug, the majority of ISVs responded quickly with software patches.
PC makers	C ⁺	As expected, rather than siding with their customers, most OEMs backed the initial Intel policy, with the notable exception of IBM.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

IS to reap new services from open phone market

Radius shaping up as first vendor of Power Mac clones

BY ANDREW GORE
MACWEEK STAFF

Apple Computer Inc. executives are set on making 1995 the year of the Macintosh clone, with the first ones shipping in the United States as early as the first half of the year.

Sources said those first clones will likely come from Radius Inc. The San Jose, Calif., company is in the final stages of striking a deal to build high-end publishing and digital video systems based on Apple's upcoming PCI (Peripheral Component Interconnect)-based Mac, code-named Tsunami. Radius and Apple officials declined to comment.

In preparation for an openly licensed Mac operating system, Apple is ahead of schedule in building a cloning infrastructure, said Don Strickland, vice president for Macintosh licensing at the Cupertino, Calif., company.

"Back when we first announced licensing on Sept. 19, I said that infrastructure was one of the big holdbacks," he said.

Windows 95 delay gums up the works

OPERATING SYSTEMS Users, ISVs face migration snag

BY MARY JO FOLEY

Microsoft Corp.'s announcement last week that Windows 95 won't ship until August 1995 will have a domino effect on IS managers and ISVs, who must revise their own plans for migrating to the 32-bit Windows upgrade.

The delay should spur many ISVs to release a new round of 16-bit revisions of their current applications instead of moving directly to Windows 95, while forcing migration plans for corporate users into 1996.

Microsoft officials attributed the latest delay—which will push

Microsoft and IBM map out their OS plans; Apple delays Copland. Page 106

Windows 95 nearly two years beyond its first projected release date—to extra time required for testing and improving installation procedures and ensuring the operating system's compatibility with current 16-bit applications.

BROKEN PROMISES

Previous Windows 95 projected ship dates:	End of 1993 Mid-1994 December 1994 Early 1995 Mid-1995
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New
projected
ship
date:

AUGUST 1995

plan of starting to migrate to Windows 95 by the end of the year."

Other corporate buyers and developers—already approaching Windows 95 with a slow ramp-up strategy—were equally cautious.

"It doesn't affect me or my customers yet," said Rich Hong, president of Hawk Scientific Systems Inc., a Kinnelon, N.J., developer of applications for the chemical and pharmaceutical industry. "It would be a problem

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THE GREAT BEYOND

Banyan delivers first components of its
BeyondWare architecture. **Page 6**

CLIENT/SERVER DEPLOYMENT

Today's CIOs struggle
to master many
disciplines.

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